

CONGRATULATIONS DIANE
HARPER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Diane Harper on her upcoming retirement. After working for Northrop Grumman for almost 23 years, Diane's last day with the company will be July 29, 2011. Having over 40 years of defense-related experience, her career has taken her from the House Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the Department of the Navy. Also at the Northrop Grumman Corporation, she was primarily responsible for acting as the liaison between the United States Congress and the Corporation with regard to legislation relevant to the company and national defense issues.

Diane, and her husband, Mike Harper, have been very encouraging to me and my wife Roxanne during my Congressional service. We appreciate their friendship and wish her Godspeed in the next stage of her life.

IN HONOR OF JAKE FISHER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jake Fisher of Portageville, Missouri for his years of service to the University of Missouri Delta Center. The people of my congressional district, the state of Missouri, and Missouri's flagship University are forever grateful for Jake's contributions and commitment to making the Delta Center what it is today, a world-renowned research facility we can all be extremely proud of.

The Delta Center has grown to be the jewel of the University of Missouri land grant system under Jake's leadership. This is a testament to Jake and the dedicated staff and faculty he works with on a daily basis. Every time I visit the Delta Center, I am encouraged by the work I see and what it means for the future of agriculture and our state.

Jake's leadership has been critical in providing the faculty and staff with the vision and necessary resources to discover new solutions, address needs for our state and help the welfare of our citizens through scientific advancement in agriculture. His forward thinking has been instrumental in the Delta Center making great advancements which will lead the future and keep our agricultural producers on the frontline in meeting the challenge of feeding a growing world population.

Not only is the Delta Center a world renowned research facility, it also remains an integral part of the community in Southeast Missouri. Jake has worked to forge a strong partnership between local communities, area producers, the entire Southeast Missouri region and the Delta Center. These partnerships make the Delta Center a special place for the people of Southeast Missouri and have contributed to its successes over the years.

Everybody back in Missouri knows Jake outside of his role at the Delta Center as a self-

less member of the community. Whenever there has been a disaster or other challenge facing the community, Jake always lends a helping hand to neighbors in need. When a historic ice storm struck our area in 2009, cutting off power and heating to our residents during the coldest part of the year, Jake was one of the first to step up and help the community by opening up part of the Delta Center as a warming center where many of the utility crews were fed as they worked to restore power.

As Jake steps back from his leadership role at the Delta Center, I am certain the center will be in good hands. However, it will be a difficult transition for many, including me, as he has personified leadership for the Delta Center over the years. It is hard to think of the Delta Center without Jake Fisher.

More than anything, I appreciate having Jake's friendship; and I look forward to keeping it for years to come.

Congratulations, Jake, on a job well done and best wishes for you and Shelly as you enter a new and exciting part of your lives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the House's need to reduce the deficit and cut back on spending. Tightening our belts is something we need to do. However, these cuts should be targeted—with a doctor's scalpel instead of a machete—so that we do not collapse the economy that we are trying so hard to build up. Unfortunately, the Interior bill we are currently debating is the work of a machete. This bill cuts or eliminates funding for countless programs that exist to help communities—including the Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Programs and the Office of Sustainable Communities.

The EPA Office of Sustainable Communities is part of an inter-agency partnership with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It was established to provide a resource for communities who need technical assistance to plan for economic growth and development and account for a changing population.

The services offered by the EPA Sustainable Communities Office are in high demand—they have been able to assist only 9% of interested communities due to budget and time constraints. Since 2005, over 1,300 communities have requested assistance from the EPA; 122 have been assisted, all for a total of \$4.5 million.

This is a program that helps local governments expand their economic development options and make their communities more at-

tractive to business and local citizens. The EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities works with HUD and DOT to make government better at helping communities develop housing, transportation and energy efficiency plans. This partnership removes barriers and cuts bureaucratic red tape, which means more efficient investments.

My home state of Missouri is already benefiting from the work of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Last fall, my district of Kansas City received a \$4.5 million grant from the Partnership. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant brings together assistance from HUD, DOT, and EPA to study six development corridors that connect 30 communities to Kansas City's urban core and coordinate housing, transportation and environmental protection along these corridors. The Kansas City region also received a \$50 million TIGER grant for investments in regional transit corridors, additional transit centers, bus stop improvements, as well as sidewalk, street, and transit improvements in the city's Green Impact Zone in the urban core.

Kansas City also received a grant that will support outreach and production of a handbook of tools and incentives designed to facilitate the redevelopment of older commercial brownfield sites in urban and suburban locations throughout the city. Commercial brownfields sites often include contamination and can be challenging to redevelopment in suburban communities.

The first phase of the project will inventory the tools, incentives, and techniques available locally to create smart growth designs and revitalize brownfields. Research will then be performed on relevant national models and best practices in these fields. A handbook will be compiled containing information on smart growth techniques for brownfield commercial sites that can cut development costs, offer unique amenities, and respond to environmental impacts. It will also highlight relevant brownfield incentives, tools, and strategies.

A design workshop will be conducted for two local, commercial brownfield sites, one urban and one suburban. The results of the workshop will be incorporated into the handbook, which will be presented at a series of roundtable events held for developers, landowners, and others involved in the redevelopment process. The project will actively seek input from the community on methods to make commercial site reuse attractive and to determine the needs of communities near commercial brownfield sites. The results may be used to suggest improvements to city codes and policies to encourage reuse and smart growth design of brownfield sites. This project will help balance regional growth in urban and suburban locations through marketing assistance for both areas, and encourage mixed-use redevelopment to better meet community service and housing needs.

Additionally, Missouri's capital, Jefferson City, has received EPA assistance to improve an area in the city core that serves as the gateway to the State Capitol and the larger Capital Complex.

Smart Growth projects similar to the projects I highlighted in Missouri are in 200 communities and almost all 50 states. Seven members of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee have at least one Sustainable Communities project in their district. These programs within EPA, HUD, and DOT provide

assistance to communities for the tools they need to create the community that people want to live in. This partnership removes barriers and cuts bureaucratic red tape, which means more efficient investments. If we are truly interested in cutting costs at the government level, we should be promoting efficient and cross-cutting government programs like this one, instead of de-funding them.

IMPACT OF INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION FAILURES

SPEECH OF

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, thousands of local community banks operate across the country, making a valuable contribution to America's economy. Colorado has a rich history of community banking, where small business owners and employers can do business with a bank they know and trust, and people know that the money they deposit is being re-deployed into the community by an institution that wants to see the community succeed as much as they do.

That shared interest in the community has traditionally led local banks to act in a responsible manner and shield themselves from systemic problems, but they are not immune from tough times. Unfortunately, federal regulators are forcing community banks in particular to fight through the rough economy with one hand tied behind their backs.

In short, we must increase bank lending to improve the economy, but regulators are preventing such lending by forcing banks to hoard capital, and by prohibiting community banks from effectively working with their borrowers. We cannot expect to reinvigorate the economy while this is the case.

Congress has been considering this problem since 2009, and it is time for action. It's been two and a half years since the fall of 2008, and yet we are still facing high unemployment, a weak dollar, and a sluggish economy. It is time to move forward, and we know that to move forward we need to stimulate lending. That is why I support this bill.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT AND GLO- RIA NOBLE OF QUINCY, MASSA- CHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Robert and Gloria Noble of Quincy, Massachusetts. They will be recognized for their tremendous contributions to our community on August 1, 2011, when Manet Community Health Center will bestow the first Elizabeth A. Swanton Community Service Award upon Mr. and Mrs. Noble.

This award is presented in memory of Elizabeth A. Swanton, a former member of the board of Manet Community Health Center who passed away in January 2011 at the age of 69. She dedicated 30 years of her life advanc-

ing the Manet mission, including her service as President of the Manet Board of Directors. The award recognizes an individual or group who, like Elizabeth Swanton, has demonstrated a significant commitment to volunteerism and community service.

Robert and Gloria moved to Quincy in 1951, a year after they married. Immediately, they immersed themselves in civic life and community service. Some of their more notable roles—and there are many—include Bob's service as Massachusetts Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and Gloria's tenure as Director of D.O.V.E., which seeks to help victims of domestic violence.

For over two decades, they have also helped to organize Quincy holiday celebrations as members of the Quincy Christmas Festival Committee. In 2008, the couple was recognized for their commitment to the community with the Quincy Sun's "Citizen of the Year" award.

Their life has not only been rich in accomplishments and accolades, but also in family. They have been blessed with four children, 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, and have been fortunate enough to watch their family grow roots in Quincy.

Bob and Gloria are known throughout Quincy as true local heroes, and they have created a legacy of community service on the South Shore that will be hard to match and surely never forgotten. When I think of them, the words that come to mind include devoted, selfless, caring and committed. Our communities are all better thanks to their tireless activism. They are, without a doubt, a perfect choice for the first-ever Elizabeth A. Swanton Community Service Award.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOM- PLISHMENTS OF CECIL L. HEF- TEL

HON. COLLEEN W. HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous career of the late Representative Cecil L. Heftel. H.R. 2149 is a bill which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the "Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building."

Known for his prowess in building radio and television broadcasting stations, in 1976, Cecil Heftel was elected to the 95th Congress to represent the First Congressional District of Hawaii. While in Washington, Representative Heftel's first assignments were on the Education and Labor Committee and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Representative Heftel was reelected four times, serving a total of five terms. During the 96th Congress, Representative Heftel was elected to the Ways and Means Committee where he stayed until his resignation in 1986 to run for Governor of Hawaii.

While in office, Representative Heftel sponsored 160 bills and was a champion of tax reform and energy independence, always showing aloha to his constituency. In response to President Ronald Reagan's tax cut proposal, Representative Heftel said "I cannot support a tax proposal which would benefit me so much

more than those of my constituents who earn less than \$30,000.00 a year." Statements like this would define who Cecil Heftel was, both inside Congress and out.

In 1983 Representative Heftel was involved in a car crash near the Lincoln Memorial that left him with severe injuries. The accident occurred before cars were legally required to have airbags. This experience helped shape Representative Heftel's view of government regulation in the private sector. After the accident, Representative Heftel unsuccessfully filed suit against General Motors, blaming his accident on faulty brakes in his Oldsmobile. Though General Motors had sent Representative Heftel a letter explaining that his specific car model might have faulty brake, he did not receive the letter until after the accident occurred.

Upon his return to the 99th Congress, Representative Heftel immediately introduced legislation that would provide criminal penalties for manufacturers who fail to notify owners of motor vehicle safety defects. This continued a trend of Representative Heftel using his life experience to impact his constituency and put forward efficient and innovative laws that lasted until his resignation.

In 2004 at age 80, Heftel was successfully elected to the state Board of Education for the Oahu-At-Large seat continuing his passion for public service into his golden years.

In light of a career dedicated to advancing the common good, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2149 and name the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the "Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building."

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE TERRORIST AT- TACKS IN NORWAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the cold-blooded terror attacks that wounded as many as 96 people and took 76 lives in Norway on July 22, 2011. The attacks commenced with the brutal bombing of government buildings in Oslo, and the violence then reached its peak with a twin attack at a youth camp on Utoya Island, where the majority of casualties were children.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg condemned the attacks as "peacetime Norway's deadliest day", and I urge my colleagues to stand by Norway, a great friend and ally, in its darkest hour by supporting this resolution.

For the Norwegian government and people, these attacks are an atrocity, a nightmare, and a national tragedy.

For the world, this is a stark reminder that, as long as hatred and intolerance are allowed to persist, even the most peaceful of nations are not immune to its devastating effects.

A founding member of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Norway is the home of the Nobel Peace Prize and offers a safe haven to refugees and the politically persecuted. Many of its police officers don't carry arms.